

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed May 3, 2004. Claims 1-3 are amended. Claims 22-26 are canceled. Claims 1-21 are now pending.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicants' remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

I. Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objects to the specification for containing an embedded hyperlink. Applicants delete the hyperlink accordingly. Withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

II. Objection to the Claims

The Examiner objects to claims 1-3 for containing inappropriately placed periods. Applicants amend claims 1-3 by deleting the periods following steps a), b) and c). Withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 2-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner states that claim 2 recites the phrase "binding of the tracer molecule to the detection in the presence". Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thoroughness in finding Applicants' editorial error of failing to insert the word "molecule" between the terms "binding of the tracer molecule to the detection" and "in the presence". Applicants amend claim 2 accordingly and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S. C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lishanski et al. (US Patent No: 6, 232,104). Applicants' cancellation of claims 22-26 renders the rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

In light of the remarks and arguments set forth above, Applicants earnestly believe that they are entitled to a letters patent, and respectfully solicit the Examiner to expedite prosecution of this patent application to issuance. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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